

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 02215 151434 Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EURE-00 IO-13 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

RSR-01 /137 W

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P R 151322 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6766

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2215

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, IS, NO

SUBJ: NORWAY ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

REF: OSLO 1283

BEGIN SUMMARY. NORWAY IS TODAY INFORMING THE NORTH KOREANS OF ITS DESIRE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND IS PRO-POSING A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR JUNE 22. END SUMMARY.

1. LEIF EDWARDSSEN, ACTING POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL, CALLED AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS MORNING TO INFORM US THAT NORWAY HAS DECIDED TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. THE NORWEGIANS WILL TODAY (JUNE 15) INFORM THE NORTH KOREANS IN MOSCOW THAT NORWAY PROPOSES TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND WILL
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 OSLO 02215 151434 Z

SUGGEST THAT, IF THE NORTH KOREANS AGREE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WILL BE MADE ON JUNE 22 AT 12 NOON NORWEGIAN TIME. THE NORWEGIANS ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY INFORMING THE SOUTH KOREANS AND THE CHINESE OF THEIR DECISION.

2. EDWARDSSEN SAID THAT HE SUPPOSED THIS INFORMATION CAME AS NO SURPRISE, SINCE NORWAY HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG. NORWAY ALONE AMONG THE NORDICS HAS NOT YET DONE SO, AND PRESSURES HAVE BEEN BUILDING UP-- BOTH INTERNALLY AND FROM THE NORTH KOREANS. HE ELABORATED, " FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OF THE US," THAT THE DECISION TO MOVE NOW RATHER THAN LATER HAS TO DO WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SITUATION. UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY, HE SAID, THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD PREFERRED TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER, IN PART BECAUSE NO COMMUNIST COUNTRY HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA AND THE NORWEGIANS WOULD HAVE LIKED TO CONTINUE TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE COMMUNISTS TO DO SO-- AS NORWAY UNDERSTANDS THE FRENCH ARE DOING. BUT WAITING UNTIL AFTER SUMMER VACATIONS-- I. E., UNTIL THE EVE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY--

WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE ACTION A POLITICAL EMPHASIS THAT WAS NOT INTENDED, IN THAT IT WOULD THEN APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN RELATED TO THE PENDING UN CONSIDERATION. MEANWHILE, NORWAY WILL CONTINUE TO USE ITS SPECIAL CONTACTS WITH EAST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO URGE THEM TO RECOGNIZE SEOUL.

3. IN RESPONSE, WE SAID THAT CONTRARY TO EDWARDSSEN'S EXPECTATION THE NEWS CAME AS A GREAT SURPRISE. RECALLING CONVERSATIONS WE HAD HAD ON THE SUBJECT OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATIONS IN THE SPRING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OUR MORE RECENT INTERVENTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY VOTE, WE NOTED THAT WE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE IN NO HURRY TO ACT AND THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT DID NOT FEEL UNDER ANY PARTICULAR PRESSURE TO DO SO. THE MOUNTING INTERNAL PRESSURES TO WHICH EDWARDSSEN REFERRED WERE TOTALLY UNDISCERNIBLE TO THE OUTSIDE OBSERVER IN NORWAY, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 02215 151434 Z

WE ADDED.

4. WE CONTINUED THAT, AS AN INITIAL REACTION, WE COULD ONLY EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NORWAY HAD DECIDED TO MOVE AHEAD AT THIS TIME. WITHOUT WISHING TO REVIEW ALL THE ARGUMENTS FOR POSTPONING RECOGNITION, WE NOTED THAT THE NORWEGIAN ACTION TENDED TO PREJUDGE MANY OF THE ISSUES IN CONNECTION

WITH THE SPECIAL UNITED NATIONS ROLE IN KOREA AND THE US PRESENCE THERE, A FACT WHICH THE US COULD ONLY REGRET. AS FOR NORWAY'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE EAST EUROPEANS TO RECOGNIZE THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, WE OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE TODAY GIVING AWAY WHATEVER BARGAINING POWER THEY MIGHT HAVE.

5. THE SOUTH KOREAN CHARGE D' AFFAIRES, WHO WAS ALSO CALLED IN AND HAD AN APPOINTMENT AN HOUR AFTER OURS, IS BOTH SURPRISED AND CONCERNED AT THE SUDDENNESS OF THE NORWEGIAN DECISION. NOT THE LEAST OF HIS CONCERNS IS THE FACT THAT HIS NEW AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE, FOR WHOM THE NORWEGIANS RECENTLY GRANTED AGREEMENT, IS EXPECTING TO ARRIVE IN OSLO AT THE END OF JUNE. THE CHARGE DOES NOT OF COURSE KNOW WHETHER SEOUL WILL NOW DECIDE TO CANCEL PLANS FOR SEN
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OSLO02215
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730619/aaaajanl.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 OSLO 1283
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980206
Subject: NORWAY ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA
TAGS: PFOR, IS, KN, NO
To: COPENHAGEN
EUR
HELSINKI
MOSCOW
NATO
REYKJAVIK
SECSTATE WASHDC

SEOUL
STOCKHOLM

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005